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PLAGUE-PREVENTION WORK.

Surgeon Blue reports relative to plague-infected wood rat:

Referring to the weekly report of antiplague operations in Alameda County, dated November 17, 1909, I have to submit additional data as follows:

A plague-infected brush rat was found by the field force on October 17, 1909, in Murray Township, Alameda County, Cal. The specimen has been identified as belonging to the *Neotoma fuscipes* (Baird).^a

There is no reliable information at hand as to the prevalence of these rodents in the State. So far, some 70 or 80 specimens have been sent in from the field. An epizootic has been reported as prevailing among the "wood rats" of San Benito County near the town of Hollister. The field force has been instructed to investigate and report on the prevalence of these rodents in the counties now under our observation.

Doctor Blue further reports:

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

Last case of human plague sickened January 30, 1908. Last plague-infected rat was trapped October 23, 1908. Total number of plague-infected rats found to date, 398.

Week ended December 18, 1909. Premises inspected, 445. Houses destroyed, 14. Buildings condemned, 9. Nuisances abated, 67. Poisons placed, 8,205. Rats trapped, 1,808. Rats found dead, 29. Rats identified, 1,837, as follows: *Mus norvegicus*, 1,294; *Mus rattus*, 78; *Mus musculus*, 398; *Mus alexandrinus*, 67. Rats examined bacteriologically, 1,074. No plague-infected rats found.

OAKLAND, CAL.

Last case of human plague sickened October 26, 1909. Last plague-infected rat was found December 1, 1908.

Week ended December 18, 1909. Rats found dead, 26. Rats trapped, 545. Rats identified, 571, as follows: *Mus norvegicus*, 494; *Mus musculus*, 77. Rats examined bacteriologically, 494. No plague-infected rats found.

FRESNO COUNTY, CAL.

There is no record of human or rodent plague in Fresno County.

Week ended December 18. Ranches inspected, 18. Ground squirrels shot, 381. Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically, 375. No plague-infected squirrels found.

KERN COUNTY, CAL.

There is no record of human or rodent plague in Kern County.

Week ended December 18. Ranches inspected, 8. Ground squirrels shot, 35. Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically, 34. No plague-infected squirrels found.

^a See also on p. 1 Note on plague infection in a wood rat.

MERCED COUNTY, CAL.

There is no record of human or rodent plague in Merced County.

Week ended December 18. Ranches inspected, 41. Ground squirrels shot, 392. Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically, 287. No plague-infected squirrels found.

MONTEREY COUNTY, CAL.

There is no record of human or rodent plague in Monterey County.

Week ended December 18. Ranches inspected, 35. Ground squirrels shot, 204. Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically, 199. No plague-infected squirrels found.

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY, CAL.

There is no record of human or rodent plague in San Joaquin County.

Week ended December 18. Ranches inspected, 15. Ground squirrels shot, 49. Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically, 47. No plague-infected squirrels found.

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY, CAL.

There is no record of human or rodent plague in San Luis Obispo County.

Week ended December 18. Ranches inspected, 46. Ground squirrels shot, 324. Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically, 320. No plague-infected squirrels found.

SAN MATEO COUNTY, CAL.

There is no record of human or rodent plague in San Mateo County.

Week ended December 18. Ranches inspected, 14. Ground squirrels shot, 52. Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically, 51. No plague-infected squirrels found.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY, CAL.

There is no record of human or rodent plague in Santa Barbara County.

Week ended December 18. Ranches inspected, 29. Ground squirrels shot, 209. Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically, 200. No plague-infected squirrels found.

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, CAL.

There is no record of human plague in Santa Cruz County. Last plague-infected rodent was found November 6, 1909. Total number of plague-infected rodents found to date, 1.

Week ended December 18. Ranches inspected, 14. Ground squirrels shot, 46. Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically, 44. No plague-infected squirrels found.

TULARE COUNTY, CAL.

No record of human or rodent plague in Tulare County.

Week ended December 18. Ranches inspected, 22. Ground squirrels shot, 147. Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically, 144. No plague-infected squirrels found.

VENTURA COUNTY, CAL.

There is no record of human or rodent plague in Ventura County.

Week ended December 18. Ranches inspected, 15. Ground squirrels shot, 41. Ground squirrels trapped alive, 3. Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically, 42. No plague-infected squirrels found.

SEATTLE, WASH.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Glover reports:

No case of human plague since October 30, 1907. The last plague-infected rat was found September 26, 1908. Total plague-infected rats found to date 21.

Week ended December 18, 1909. Rats received, 1,193. Rats necropsied, 692. No plague-infected rats found.

SMALLPOX IN THE UNITED STATES.

Reports Received During Week ended January 7, 1910.

[For reports received from June 25, 1909, to December 31, 1909, see Public Health Reports for December 31, 1909. In accordance with custom the tables of epidemic diseases are terminated semiannually and new tables begun.]

Place.	Date.	Cases.	Deaths.	Remarks.
Alabama:				
Montgomery.....	Dec. 19-25.....	26	.....
Total for State.....		26		
California:				
Sacramento.....	Dec. 12-18.....	2	.....
Total for State.....		2		
Illinois:				
Chicago.....	Dec. 19-25.....	2	.....
Total for State.....		2		
Indiana:				
Indianapolis.....	Dec. 12-18.....	1	.....
Total for State.....		1		
Kansas:				
Montgomery County— Independence.....	Dec. 19-25.....	5	.....
Wyandotte County— Kansas City.....	Dec. 19-25.....	1	.....
Total for State.....		6		
Kentucky:				
Hartford.....	Dec. 12-18.....	2	.....
Lexington.....	Dec. 12-18.....	1	.....
Total for State.....		3		
Michigan:				
Bay County— Bay City.....	Dec. 5-11.....	15	.....
Total for State.....		15		
Mississippi:				
Calbourne County— Port Gibson.....	Dec. 19-25.....	1	.....
Total for State.....		1		
New York, general.....	Sept. 1-Oct. 31.....	6	1	
Lockport.....	Dec. 5-11.....	1	.....
Total for State.....		7	1	